

AUTHORITY TO ENGAGE IN FOREST INSECT AND DISEASE PESTS MANAGEMENT

5080

(November 1988)

Public Resources Code Sections 701.5-714, 4712-4718, and 4799.08-4799.12 authorizes the California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection (CDF) to engage in forest insect and disease control. These sections state when and where the department can conduct control projects and include policies regarding private, state, and federal participation in insect and disease control projects. The landowner is responsible for controlling insect infestations and disease infections on his/her lands. When the infestation or infection endangers other lands, the department, under certain conditions, can take control action.

FOREST PEST MANAGEMENT POLICY

5080.1

(November 1988)

Article I. GENERAL.

1. The State Board of Forestry finds that forest insects, diseases, and other pests have damaged and destroyed major timber, watershed, recreational, and other public values on California forest, hardwood range lands, and urban forests, and that the threat of future damage from such forest pests is a continuing and potentially serious problem. Accordingly, the following policy is provided for the guidance of the Director of the Department of Forestry and Fire Protection, and information for concerned and interested agencies and persons.
2. State laws authorizing the control of forest pests, including Public Resources Code Sections 4712-4718, 4799.08-4799.12, and the Federal Forest Pest Control Act (Public Law 110), allow broad administrative discretion in the use of public funds to detect and control forest pests on lands of all ownership.
3. Any control measure, including the use of pesticides, biological control, fire, or mechanical means, must be ecologically and environmentally sound. Measures must also be justified in terms of practicality, effectiveness, resource values threatened and costs versus benefits.

The objective of forest pest management is to keep the pests' impact at acceptable endemic levels. Eradication is not the usual objective, except for introduced pests.

4. It is the policy of the Board that the public is kept advised of the status of forest pests and any control operations involving CDF participation. The Board recognizes public concern over toxicity and other health effects of some pest control chemicals. It shall be the policy of the department to minimize the risk of exposure to the public of toxic chemicals. Implementation of this policy will be accomplished by encouraging the use of an Integrated Pest Management (IPM) approach in developing strategies to combat forest pest problems. Proposed uses of toxic agents will be evaluated taking into account the characteristics of the effective chemicals, quantity to be used, method and frequency of application to ensure that the alternative posing the least risk of exposure is selected.
5. The Director should employ and promote the principles of sound forest resource management as a means of preventing or reducing damage by forest pests. A basic requirement to prevent or minimize losses due to forest pests is to maintain forest stands in a healthy and vigorous condition.
6. The Director should develop programs to advise and assist private forest owners within the state on the manipulation of forest composition and stand structure in order to minimize the risk of unacceptable losses due to forest pests. Integrated pest management should be an integral part of general silvicultural prescriptions, rules and regulations, and may include, but is not limited to, guidance on the appropriate kinds, intensity, and timing of practices such as selection of genetically pest resistant trees, harvesting, slash disposal, site preparation, regeneration, stocking control, nutrition, the use of pesticides, and biological, and indirect methods of control.
7. It is the policy of the Board to obtain expeditious control of potentially devastating forest insect and disease infestations, and to permit flexibility to meet the many variables of control operations according to principles and guidelines set forth herein.
8. The Director is authorized to cooperate and maintain a working relationship with other state agencies, federal, county, municipal governments, private forest pest consultants and private timber landowners in carrying out pest control under provisions of state law and in accordance with the general principles stated herein.

Whenever chemicals are used in control of insects and diseases, the Director shall comply with all appropriate rules and regulations of the Departments of Food and Agriculture, Health Services, the State Water Resources Control Board, the County Agricultural Commissioners, and other state, federal, or local agencies.

Article II. FOREST PEST MANAGEMENT RESPONSIBILITIES.

1. The department should assume the lead role in native forest insect and disease matters on nonfederal forest lands in California as authorized in the Public Resources Code.

2. Introduced forest pests may present a serious threat to forest resources. In the event of introduction of a new forest pest, the Director shall cooperate with other responsible federal and state agencies, such as the U.S. Forest Service, the Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS), and the California Department of Food and Agriculture, to secure prompt effective action to prevent the spread of and damage by the new pest. In the absence of action by other agencies, the Director may employ eradication or control measures approved by the State Board of Forestry.
3. It shall not be the responsibility of public agencies to take direct action against native forest pests whose effects are confined to local areas encompassing one or a few properties except as provided in (4) below.
4. It shall be a private and local community responsibility to take direct action against forest pests on several adjacent private properties when there are no intermingled or threatened state- or federally owned forestlands. Other than acting as a technical adviser, state assistance can be justified only when the infestation is of such a threat to adjacent commercial forestlands, and of such urgency and size, that the local owners cannot adequately or expeditiously control the pest.
5. It shall be the responsibility of local agencies and individual landowners to control pests of landscape and ornamental trees except in cases such as Dutch elm disease where the Legislature has assigned that responsibility to CDF (PRC 4799.08(e) and 4799.10(c)). In other cases, CDF shall exercise its authority (PRC 4799.11(a)(4)) to give advice on pests and hazards of urban trees where practicable.
6. Any state expenditures for forest pest control projects shall be justified by showing that effective, practical, economical and environmentally sound measures are available, as determined by the Director of Forestry and Fire Protection.
7. The Director shall offset the cost of direct control projects by seeking contributed funds or labor from affected private forest landowners and any appropriate agency of government. When private landowners or governmental agencies have the ability or authority to expend monies or services in control projects, it is the policy of the Board that the department's share should generally be limited to 50 percent of the cost of control, excluding regular salaries and wages of permanent CDF employees.

8. If infestations are of such size or character as to be beyond the ability of any forest landowner or group of private forest landowners to control as determined by the Director, the department may finance up to 100 percent of the cost of such forest pest control projects on private lands. Such funding must be in the public interest. The Director shall seek needed funding from the Department of Finance (DOF) for such projects. In the event DOF does not authorize full funding, the Director shall proceed with available funds to achieve maximum control.
9. The state and others should seek Federal pest control funds where available and appropriate in order to minimize the cost of forest pest control projects where the cost of an individual project exceeds \$5,000.
10. In prevention, stabilization or suppression actions, post-treatment evaluations shall be conducted to measure the efficacy of the prescribed treatments.
11. Control of forest pests by indirect methods, such as by thinning, sanitation harvesting and salvage, should be utilized where appropriate to reduce the direct costs of stabilization or suppression of pest populations and to insure full utilization of the timber resource.
12. In determining risk, the department shall evaluate the available chemicals and shall use the least toxic and most economical chemical(s) available that will be effective in carrying out the desired results. Biological control methods should be used if proven effective and economical.

Article III. PUBLIC AWARENESS AND INFORMATION.

1. The Director shall develop a public involvement action plan for control projects. Included in this plan should be sections dealing with public information (including media contacts and public involvement); project organization; treatment; delimitation procedures; and budgets.
2. The action plan should include a section on risk assessment and where appropriate, how the decision to take action or not to take action is determined (e.g., cost of control project versus current and future losses if "no action" alternative is selected).
3. The Director, in cooperation with the California Department of Food and Agriculture, Cooperative Extension, U.S. Forest Service, California Forest Pest Council, and other agencies, shall ensure that the public is kept informed on all forest pest control matters through news releases, articles, other publications, press tours, and the like.

4. The department is encouraged to develop a Forest Pest Control Note series designed to impart continuing information on forest pests to the cooperating agencies, and the general public.

Article IV. PEST SURVEYS, EVALUATIONS, AND INVENTORIES.

1. The Director shall develop and implement a program for monitoring forest pests and detecting damage on nonfederal forestlands.
2. The program should include pest detection surveys, evaluations based on biological, environmental, and economic considerations, recommendations and inventories of kinds and amount of damage.
3. The Director shall encourage the widespread use of the Forest Pest Detection Report to assist in determining the extent of damaging forest pest problems or situations.

Article V. PRINCIPLES.

1. The Board of Forestry recognizes the California Forest Pest Council as the primary source of advice on matters of forest pest management and forest pest research needs.
2. The Director shall encourage the use of an Integrated Pest Management (IPM) approach in developing strategies to combat forest pest problems.
3. The Director shall establish an agency liaison working group comprised of representatives of those agencies with statutory authority for control of forest pests in California (California Department of Food and Agriculture, the U.S. Forest Service, and the California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection). This committee should meet on a regular basis to discuss forest pest matters. The committee should address long-range planning needs, evaluation of potential control projects, and focusing research goals and public information efforts. The department's representative should serve as chairman of this group. Copies of the meeting notes should be sent to the Board and to the California Forest Pest Council to keep them apprised.
4. The Director will determine the specific information needed to guide forest owners toward programs to minimize present or potential impacts of forest pests and develop and implement programs to obtain such information. Such information may include, but is not limited to, pest damage inventories and survey reports; studies of differences in genotype, site, environment, or stand condition which influence susceptibility or risk of damage caused by specific pests or pest complexes; and studies of differences in the nature and timing of specific silvicultural treatments and their impact on forest pests.

5. The Director shall continuously evaluate the staffing needs of the department in forest pest control matters and shall seek approval from the Department of Finance to increase staff when it is shown that additional personnel are needed.
6. The Director should periodically report to the Board on staffing needs and where Board support is needed to obtain additional staff.
7. The department shall maintain a sufficient number of personnel holding a "Qualified Applicator Certificate" to enable the department to carry out required control projects. Departmental staff is encouraged to become Certified Pest Control Advisers and to maintain their skills in this area through continuing education courses.
8. The department shall provide training for its forest advisers and other staff in the principles of forest pest management. The department is encouraged to provide such training for those foresters, landowners, and others outside the department through short courses, field trips, or other means. The department should work with Cooperative Extension, the Forest Service, the California Forest Pest Council, and others in arranging for such training.

Article VI. FOREST PEST RESEARCH.

1. The Board supports an aggressive program for research on integrated forest pest management to improve the effectiveness of efforts for prevention, detection, evaluation, suppression or stabilization of forest pests in the state; and encourage collection and dissemination of information on pest incidence, biology, management, and control through the department, the California Forest Pest Council, the Cooperative Extension, the several research agencies, and other appropriate entities.
2. It is the policy of the Board, directly and through its Committee on Research, with input from the California Forest Pest Council, in the discharge of its responsibilities for research and information programs, to periodically identify forest pest related research needs, and these needs should be communicated to research organizations.
3. The Director shall cooperate with the University of California, the California State University system, the Pacific Southwest Forest and Range Experiment Station, private industry, forest landowners, and others in seeking an adequate level of funding for forest pest research in California. CDF shall solicit and consider the recommendations of the California Forest Pest Council in setting research priorities.

Article VII. DEFINITION OF TERMS.

1. Control - Includes acts of prevention, detection, evaluation, suppression, or stabilization of pests or pest damage.
2. Director - The Director of the Department of Forestry and Fire Protection.
3. Endemic - The normal population level of a potentially destructive native species; in contrast to epidemic.
4. Forest - A plant community, predominantly of trees and other woody vegetation growing more or less closely together and managed for a variety of resources, including timber, soil and watershed, range, wildlife, recreation values, fuelwood, and aesthetics.
5. Integrated Pest Management (IPM) - The maintenance of destructive agents, including insects at tolerable levels by the planned use of a variety of preventive, suppressive, or regulatory tactics or strategies that are ecologically and economically efficient and socially acceptable. It is implicit that the actions taken are fully integrated into the total resource management process in both planning and operation.
6. Introduced Pests - Pests that have been introduced into California after the first Europeans arrived. These pests are generally without adequate biological controls and cause serious disruptions to the native ecosystems.
7. Native Pests - Pests that are indigenous and are part of the native ecosystems.
8. Pests - Organisms that diminish the value of resources in which man is interested. For purposes of this policy, they are biological agents such as insects, diseases, animals (vertebrates), and plant weed species; either singly or in combination, which occur in sufficient numbers, population, or extent so as to cause, or potentially cause, significant or unacceptable losses to forest resources values.

Adopted by the State Board of Forestry on July 8, 1987, at its meeting in Sonora, California.

PESTICIDE POLICY

(November 1988)

5080.2

The Director of the Department of Forestry and Fire Protection recognizes and promotes an integrated approach to decision making on the use of pesticides. Employees and users should consider practicality, effectiveness, resource values, public health and safety, and costs versus benefits. The department's policy on pesticide use is as follows:

- Examine all alternatives including cultural, chemical, mechanical, manual, fire, biological, and regulatory before recommending and using pesticides. A "do nothing" alternative may be appropriate in certain cases.
- Evaluate all projects to determine possible effects on nontarget plants, animals, insects, and public health sensitivities.
- Use pesticides registered by the Environmental Protection Agency and the California Department of Food and Agriculture. Always follow the Agricultural Commissioner's guidelines and permit systems for purchase, storage, and application. Label instructions will be strictly followed at all times.
- Coordinate with federal and state agencies in order to determine that the proposed pesticide use will not adversely affect endangered or threatened animal or plant species or their habitats.
- Restricted-use pesticides will be used only by personnel who are certified or who are under the direct supervision of a certified applicator. All pesticides will be used and stored in a safe manner. Proper safety clothing and protective devices will be obtained before any use.
- Support research and evaluate the effectiveness and environmental safety of new pesticide formulations and application methods.
- Pesticides will be used to enhance forest and range productivity - not just to kill insects, animals or plants.

Politically sensitive projects should be reviewed with the Sacramento headquarters staff before initiation.

FORMS AND/OR FORMS SAMPLES: RETURN TO ISSUANCE HOME PAGE FOR FORMS/FORMS SAMPLES SITE LINK.

[\(See next section\)](#)

[\(See Table of Contents\)](#)